Lesson C9 – What Christians Stand For - JESUS

I.   Who Do You Say I Am?

Read Matthew 16:13-17

Jesus began asking His disciples, saying, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah,
or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Simon
Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus
answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did
not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

The people of Jesus' day had varied opinions about who He was. Not much has changed in our day.
If you asked a number of people on the street who Jesus is, you'd probably get a number of different
answers. Some might say, as Peter did in the verse above, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the
Living God. But others would likely identify Him merely as a great teacher or a prophet, or perhaps a
man who performed miracles.

The question Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" is the most important question a
person will ever answer.

Watch: "**Who Is Jesus—NYC Street Interview"**   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bZFoD0cG88&t=37s

Discuss:
1. What surprised you about the answers people gave about Jesus?
2. Write down below your answer to the question: Who is Jesus?

Watch: WHO IS JESUS? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQWCb-oIn54&t=223s

1. Maybe Jesus was _____.

2. Maybe Jesus was a _____ created by the early church.

3. Maybe Jesus was a clever _____ _____.

4. Maybe Jesus _____ _____ _____.

5. Perhaps Jesus is who he claimed to be. It's not _____.

II. Lunatic, Liar, Lord

Some may argue otherwise, but Jesus did not leave us the option to say that He is merely a great
teacher, or a prophet, or a man who performed miracles. Jesus claimed to be God. Some deny that
He really made this claim, but that is, in fact, the reason the religious leaders wanted Him dead. Jesus
was clear about His claim and that claim leads to only one of three possibilities: that Jesus was a
Lunatic, Liar or Lord. (This argument that was first made by C.S. Lewis, and later by Josh
McDowell.)

Lunatic: Perhaps Jesus sincerely believed that He was the Son of God, but He was Himself deceived, so much so that He was willing to die because of it. This would put Jesus in the category of a lunatic.

Evil Liar: Jesus knew that He was not the Son of God, but He was willing to lie about it. This would not only make Him a liar, it would make Him a very evil man because He was intentionally misleading people, many of whom would suffer and die because they believed Him.

Lord: Jesus was who He claimed to be: the Son of the Living God. Jesus left us no other options.

- We cannot call Him just a _____ _____, because a good man would not mislead people by saying that He was something He was not.

- We cannot call Him just a _____ _____ because a good teacher would not teach something that was untrue.

- And if Jesus was _____ people, either intentionally or because He was Himself deceived, then we cannot conclude that His power to perform miracles was from God. It would be more reasonable to assume that the power had come from _____.

III.   Who Did Jesus Think He Was?

Some say that the Early Church made Jesus into a God. What does a study of History tell us?

Watch: Who Did Jesus Think He Was?   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSQDov6NNp0&t=335s

1. Jesus claimed to be the promised _____, the promised King of Israel.

2. Jesus claimed to be the _____ of _____. See Luke 20:9-18

3. Jesus claimed to be the _____ of _____. See Daniel 7:13-14

4. Jesus claimed to have divine _____ and to perform _____.

IV.   What Makes Christianity Different?

Watch: What Makes Christianity Different from Other Religions? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbeFQtaybB8

Each religion tries to answer how to care for our _____ -- now and for eternity.

What makes Christianity different than all the other world religions?

After everything you have head and discussed today, how would you change your answer to the question, **"Who Is Jesus?"**